

InBRIEF**Man admits sex attack**

■ A TWENTY-three-year-old man from Banbury will next month be sentenced over his sex attack on a woman walking a pram.

Arelas Aputis, of Southam Road, admitted one count of sexual assault by touching at Banbury Magistrates' Court last month.

He followed the woman as she was pushing her pram through People's Park and along Kings Road on April 23 and appeared directly behind her and assaulted her by touching.

Magistrates committed him to Oxford Crown Court for sentencing on July 2.

Nightclub injury

■ A WOMAN, aged 24, broke her wrist when she was pushed over on the dance floor of the Moo Moos nightclub in the High Street, Banbury.

Police said the incident happened at about 2.45am on Sunday.

The attacker was described as being black, about 5ft 6in tall, of stocky build with a bald head. He was wearing a tight-fitting, dark coloured T-shirt and jeans.

Call police on 101 with information.

School tally

■ A DRESS-DOWN day at Kings Sutton Primary School last month raised £105 for the Banbury homeless charity BYHP.

Charity chief Anna Day said: "Donations from community groups are vital for the future of BYHP and developing community links means that more people understand the need for our work and the complex issues surrounding homelessness."

Thousands enjoy the biggest-ever show to be staged in the

Council provides fun for all...

By Fran Bardsley

THOUSANDS of people packed into Banbury's Spiceball Park for the biggest Banbury and District Show in the event's history.

An estimated 15,000 people attended the Banbury Town Council-organised event on Sunday, which included two arenas and a range of attractions.

Among those enjoying the day out were Banbury mum Cheryl Parsons and her ten-year-old daughter Katie,

together with Kayleigh Green, also ten, and Georgia Lewis, four.

She said: "The kids enjoyed it. And it didn't cost a lot of money. The funniest part was the dancing."

The activities on offer included an *It's A Knockout*-style contest, Jez Avery's All New Stunt Show, featuring stunts on a bicycle, motorbike, quad bike and a buggy, and Gary Lee's battling Cumberland Giants.

The "giants" were two 12-foot-tall comedy wrestlers.

The Up 'n' Over Dog Training Club put on a show, while youngsters had a chance to meet pygmy goats, lambs, calves, ponies, chicks and ducks.

Colin Clarke, chairman of the council's general services committee, said: "This was a fantastic event."

"I have never known crowds this big before and everyone I saw had been having a great time."

"Spiceball Park was packed all day with happy, smiling people."

Other attractions included music, a boxing demo, dog and ferret racing, Zumba, karate and dancing.



ABOVE: Katie Parsons hugs a baby gosling
RIGHT: Charles Busby in his 1934 Morris eight with his spaniel, Skye



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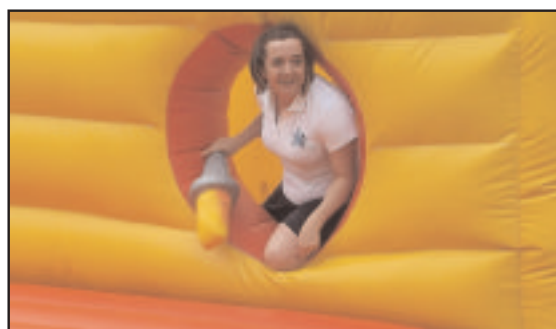


ABOVE: The dance divas

ABOVE, RIGHT: Smiling six-year-old Pearl Blacker

LEFT: Oliver Glasspole, aged six, and his three-year-old brother, Harry, have fun on the slide

RIGHT: The race is on to find a way through the inflatables



InBRIEF

Chiltern earns punctual praise

■ CHILTERN Railways has been named top franchise rail operator for train punctuality for a sixth consecutive period, according to Network Rail.

The results calculate the percentage of services that arrive within a minute of their scheduled time. It found that 87 per cent of Chiltern Railways trains were on time, compared to a national average of 68.1 per cent.

Playing field plan

■ A LONG-term plan to build homes on the playing fields of Banbury Academy could be approved tonight – despite objections.

A Cherwell District Council planning officer has urged councillors to approve the plan for up to 44 homes, a new all-weather pitch with lighting, extension to the sports hall and a new climbing wall.

The Ruskin Road school – formerly Banbury School – said the sale was needed to pay for sports improvements. Sport England had dropped an objection as long as the pitch was not used from 9pm to 8am.

There were some 31 letters of objection and petitions with 399 signatures opposed to the plan – but one signed by 190 people supported it. Concerns included extra noise and traffic congestion.



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Fraud jury told of 'scapegoat'

AN accountant on trial for conspiracy to commit fraud has been made a "scapegoat", a jury heard.

Mark Woodbridge, 42, denies plotting to defraud the shareholders of software firm Torex Retail, which had an office in Banbury, along with Nigel Horn, 58.

The pair are now in the 13th week of their trial at Oxford Crown Court, after the company's former chairman, Robert Loosemore, and chief executive Christopher Moore admitted two charges of conspiracy to defraud.

John Hilton QC, defending, said during his closing speech that the prosecution had made out Woodbridge's role within Torex was larger than it really was.

He said: "They were almost suggesting that anything that was going on at Torex that required attention was given it by Mr Woodbridge. That he was responsible."

But he argued that a number of witnesses had been "passing the buck" and his client was being used as a

"scapegoat". He said: "What we are saying is that he has been singled out, and it is so easy to single out this man."

"But it is not fair, not just and not accurate."

Woodbridge, of Mill Farm, Brookhampton, Warwickshire, denies three charges of false accounting in 2006, between May 1 and August 15.

The former group financial accountant for Torex Retail also denies two charges of conspiracy to defraud between May 1, 2006, and January 26, 2007.

They involve about £8.5m, which the prosecution alleges was dishonestly entered in one of the company's interim financial statements to inflate its value.

Horn, of The Avenue, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, who was the legal director, also denies conspiracy to defraud between November 1, 2006, and January 26, 2007.

The trial continues.

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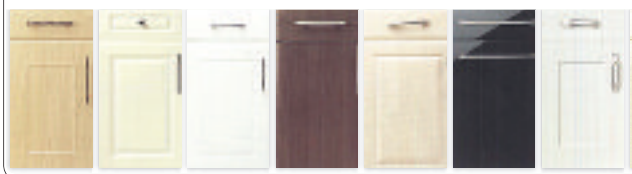
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FOR the first time, this weekend's 65th Banbury Run will be held over two days.

And this Saturday, there will be a vintage training day, offering vintage virgins the chance to ride veteran and vintage motorcycles in a safe "off road" environment.

The main Banbury Run – the largest gathering of pre-1931 motorcycles and three-wheelers in the world – will take place on Sunday.

Visitors to the Heritage Motor Centre, at Gaydon, will be able to see the bikes in all their glory as they set off for their annual trip around the countryside.

Although the exact route is kept top secret until the day, it is expected that they will venture through the villages of Cropredy, Knightcote and Arlescote.

In addition to the run, there

By Banbury reporter

will also be club and trade stands, along with over 100 autojumble pitches and special interest displays.

A ticket price of £5 is open to those who book in advance. On the day it will be £8 or £25 for a family (two adults and three children).

The ticket price not only includes entry to watch the Banbury Run, but also includes entry to the Heritage Motor Centre, which boasts nearly 300 cars in its collection.

For more details, see heritage-motor-centre.co.uk or call 01926 645029.

For information about the Vintage Training Day, contact Sam Brown on sambrown@vmcc.net

Last gasp bid for broadband

A DEADLINE for bids to bring fast broadband to rural Oxfordshire has been extended.

But organisations which want to receive cash from the Rural Community Broadband Fund to extend fast services to more rural areas only have until Monday to apply.

Oxfordshire County Council is currently working on its bid.

Oxfordshire MP John Howell said: "I do not wish to see the process delayed. However, I am delighted by this extension, which will allow competent bidders to come forward."

"I hope that the county council can meet this deadline and the available funding."

Planning guard call

VIEWERS are being sought on UPDATES plans to preserve Barford St John and Barford St Michael.

Cherwell District Council has produced an appraisal of conservation areas covering the villages, which give greater controls on development.

Comments are sought by June 24 through the website cherwell.gov.uk/conservation

A public exhibition will be held at Barford St Michael village hall, Lower Street, on Thursday, June 27, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm with a presentation at 7pm.



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InBRIEF

Clampdown

■ CHERWELL District Council has backed a national campaign calling for local authorities to clamp down on rogue landlords.

It said it had tough policies to deal with poor conditions, such as licensing of large, multiple-occupancy homes.

And in the 12 months from April, 2012, it said it took enforcement action over health issues in 127 homes.

Now the council is backing charity Shelter's Evict Rogue Landlords campaign.

Lead member for housing, Debbie Pickford, said: "We work hard to make sure that poor

standards are put right and will continue to take enforcement action wherever necessary."

Contact the housing team on 01295 221655.

Rape charge

■ A MAN has appeared at Oxford Crown Court to deny raping a woman in Banbury.

Adrian Shorter, of Bear's Hedge, Ifley, Oxford, entered a not guilty plea to one count of rape.

He is alleged to have committed the crime on February 24 this year.

The 33-year-old's trial is scheduled to begin on November 4 and is expected to last around two to three days.

He was released on conditional bail.

Punctual trains

■ CHILTERN Railways was the best-performing English operator outside London, according to the latest punctuality figures.

Some 97.3 per cent of services arrived within five minutes of schedule from April 28 to May 25, Network Rail figures show. The national score was 93.5 per cent. Chiltern MD Rob Brighouse said: "Whilst these results reinforce how we are leading the way, we mustn't be complacent and are committed to looking at ways to further improve the passenger experience."

■ Out-of-date figures hits planning policy

Lack of a Local Plan may 'open the floodgates'

DELAYS to the county's planning policy blueprints could open the floodgates to "unsuitable" housing developments in Oxfordshire, it has been warned.

Local Plans are an agreed civic document that earmarks land where thousands of homes could be built in the years to come.

But a ruling in North Warwickshire has deemed such plans are only valid if based on up-to-date assessments of housing

By Tom Jennings

need. Now, all five of the county's district councils are having to reassess their Local Plans in the light of the planning inspector's decision – as all are based on information that is six years old.

In three cases – Cherwell among them – it means their proposed Local Plans can't be confirmed.

Councillors have warned they will be less able to successfully refuse housing schemes that they

don't want in the meantime.

Cherwell District Council's planning chief, Michael Gibbard, said: "The further we go without a Local Plan in place, the more at risk we are of inappropriate developments being allowed."

The number of homes any local authority needs is based on a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

A planning inspector decided in April that North Warwickshire's 2008 SHMA assessment "cannot be said to be up to date" and was not

adequate to assess the local housing need.

Oxfordshire's SHMA is a year older than that – so the county's five councils will have to produce a new one between them.

The new SHMA will not be completed until October.

A Planning Inspectorate spokesman warned there was a risk for councils with outdated housing assessments.

He said: "Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy and the national planning policy framework."

"There are no exact rules about when the figures are considered too old, but housing evidence that does not take into account the latest population projections are in danger of being dated."



Cherwell planning chief Michael Gibbard



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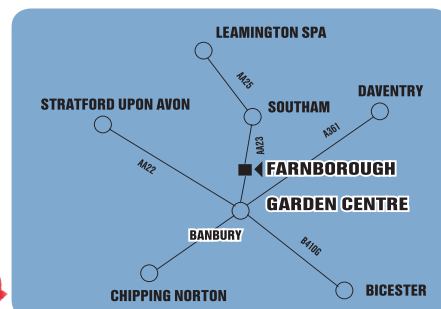
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Drink-drive crackdown is launched

A SUMMER drink-drive crackdown has been launched across Oxfordshire.

Thames Valley Police plan to target drink-drivers at a host of locations as part of a national campaign.

Officers say they will be carrying out random drink/speed and seatbelt checks at all times of the day and night across Oxfordshire for the duration of the summer.

All drivers who provide a

positive breath test or fail to take the test face losing their licence for at least 12 months, a £5,000 fine or even a six-month prison sentence.

But last Christmas period, after 100 motorists were pulled over by police during just one night of a drink-driving operation, none were over the limit.

Police believe the message is getting across and hope Oxfordshire's good response

continues into the summer.

The number of people arrested during the December-long campaign fell across the Thames Valley from 299 in 2011 to 278 last year.

A/Superintendent Henry Parsons, head of roads policing for the Thames Valley, said: "Drinking late into the evening and then getting up early for work is not a good combination. You could still be driving to work over the limit."

Watch on underage drinking

POLICE officers in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell will be increasing their neighbourhood patrols during the end of the exam period and during school proms.

It is hoped the extra patrols will help Thames Valley Police tackle any "unacceptable" behaviour – such as underage drinking.

Inspector Louise Roddy said: "We will be increasing patrols in areas previously susceptible to anti-social behaviour and also supporting the schools to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the public and also that no children are putting themselves at risk."

"The neighbourhood teams have good relationships with the schools across West Oxfordshire and are confident that the coming months will run smoothly."

"In addition the neighbourhood team will be carrying out stringent licensing checks at the public houses, to ensure that there are no underage drinkers."

"We will be working closely with our partners at the West Oxfordshire District Council and Base 33 Youth Trust, as well as deploying anti-social behaviour officers in order to identify and divert youths committing anti-social behaviour and underage drinking."

Response times crisis

The chief executive of the South Central Ambulance Service, Will Hancock



EMERGENCY service bosses have warned life-saving response times in rural Oxfordshire won't be met unless they can treble the number of ambulances.

Will Hancock, the chief executive of the South Central Ambulance Service, has said that to guarantee a "full coverage" of the county, more than 90 additional ambulances would be needed.

But they would cost the service – which is halfway through making cuts of £30m over five years – £140,000 each to buy and equip and more than £500,000 to run

90 ambulances needed to hit targets

By Tom Jennings

and crew every year.

It currently has 40 ambulances covering Oxfordshire. Mr Hancock quoted a 2009 report and said that if just one ambulance was removed from Oxford city and based in a rural part of the county, this would lead to a 30 per cent drop in response times in the city.

Targets set by the government say that SCAS has to reach the most urgent emergency calls within eight minutes in at least 75 per cent of cases.

But at the end of last year it barely managed to reach half of the immediate life-threatening calls in some rural areas within eight minutes.

The leader of Oxfordshire County Council, Ian Hudspeth, said: "It is

difficult because of the financial situation we all face.

"I represent a rural area and would love to have an eight-minute response time for my residents, so they could feel safe."

"The difficulty is where would the service get the funds from for the additional ambulances and the staff?"

Martin Barrett, a member of the county's joint health overview and scrutiny committee, said it was going to be "impossible" for SCAS to meet response times without the extra resources.

He said: "Given the figures calling for 90 additional ambulances, clearly they are never going to get that funding – so they are never going to be able to meet the response times in rural areas."

"It looks as though the only way to improve the response times is to

get many more first responders."

Trusts – including those that run the ambulance service – could be fined if they do not meet the Government target of reaching immediate life-threatening emergencies within eight minutes in 75 per cent of cases across a year.

Although SCAS fell down in some rural areas, it achieved its targets across its region.

SCAS operations director Steve West said he was hoping to work with district councils to recruit more first responders, improve turnaround delays at hospitals and engage with commissioners over funding.

Asked whether it would ever be possible to guarantee the eight-minute response in rural communities, he said: "The nature of the area makes it particularly difficult, inefficient and expensive to do. There is a reality around that."

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InBRIEF

Approval urged

■ CONTROVERSIAL plans for 65 homes to the south west of Adderbury should be approved, a planning officer has said.

Cherwell District Council's Rebecca Horley urged councillors to approve the Berkeley Homes plan on farmland south of Milton Road, as it would deliver 23 "much needed" affordable homes.

Some 313 letters and three parish councils objected, citing concerns about traffic, pressure on services and its absence from the council's "Local Plan" on where future estates should go.

A previous plan for 65 homes was refused by the council. The new scheme has a revised layout and covers a smaller area.

Meet the police

■ BANBURY residents can meet police at two events in the coming weeks.

Members of Thames Valley Police's Banbury Town division will be at Lower Cherwell Street and Cherwell Wharf from 5pm to

6pm on Friday, June 14.

They will also be at Jubilee Court Car Park from 5pm to 6pm on Friday, July 5.

Nominations

■ NOMINATIONS have opened for the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards 2013. The awards recognise the efforts of charity, volunteer and community workers across the county. The award ceremony will take place at Oxford Town Hall on October 14. To nominate someone go to oxnet.org.uk

Cleaning blitz

■ COUNCIL street-cleaning teams will be working above and beyond normal duties in Hardwick later this month.

Cherwell District Council workers will tackle fly-tipping, dog fouling and graffiti from June 17 to 21.

During the week, bags of compost will also be given away from outside shops in Ferristown

from 3pm to 5.30pm.

Cleaning chief Nigel Morris said: "Every so often we like to carry out these blitzes in some of our most popular areas to really give them that extra shine."

Charity concert

■ FORMER *Generation Game* co-host Isla St Clair is to play a concert for county charities.

The Scottish folk singer will perform at the Mayor's Charity Concert at the town Hall, Bridge Street, on Saturday, July 6, at 8pm.

As well as her appearances with Larry Grayson on *The Generation Game*, the singer also appeared on the *Royal Variety Show* and the *Morecambe & Wise Show*.

Proceeds from the show will go to good causes nominated by Banbury mayor Nicholas Turner.

Advance tickets are £12 from the town hall, One Man Band music shop in White Lion Walk, Banbury Folk Club or banburyfolkfestival.co.uk. Unsold tickets will be available on the door for £15. For details, call 01295 250340.

MP's 30-year milestone

■ Sir Tony Baldry looks back on some of the changes to his north Oxfordshire constituency

WHEN Sir Tony Baldry first entered Parliament, Banbury was a small town, Bicester was a mere speck on the map and no-one had even dreamed of Twitter.

But 30 years on, the 62-year-old north Oxfordshire MP is still taking all the changes in his stride, and tweeting every step of the way.

Despite what anyone would consider a good innings for an MP, there's still no end in sight for Sir Tony, a former barrister.

He said: "I've been re-selected for the next General Election, so we will just see what happens from there."

In 1983, Margaret Thatcher won a landslide second victory and a triumphant Sir Tony emerged victorious as Bicester's new MP.

Now, the man once known as "keeper of the hairspray" as an aide to the Iron Lady, is looking back on 30 years of unprecedented change in his constituency.

Sir Tony, who lives in Bloxham with his second wife, Pippa, said: "Back in 1983, Banbury was an edge-of-West Midlands town. The M40 extension from Oxford hadn't been built – so all the traffic from Oxford to Birmingham trundled through the centre of the town.

By Freddie Whittaker

"The first campaign I took on was as president of the M40 support group, to ensure that the motorway extension from Oxford to Birmingham was built as quickly as possible. It had been on the drawing board for 30 years.

"At that time it took nearly two hours to get from Banbury to London by train, so I think there were real issues about where was Banbury's future, where was it going, was it an agricultural town?

"Meanwhile, Bicester was, of course, much much smaller than it is now. It was just market town, where the main employer was the depot and the garrison."

He added: "I think over my 30-year period what has been really exciting is seeing both Banbury and Bicester develop into really quite exciting communities.

"Banbury today has an unemployment rate of less than two per cent. It's got some really exciting businesses, like Crompton Technology, Prodrive, Norbar Torque, world-beating engineering businesses. The M40 has been built and you can get to London by train in just over an hour.

"Bicester, over the next 30 years or so, is going to be a town which people will talk more and more about. I hope in due course that Bicester will become a garden city. We now have an opportunity of creating a new identity for Bicester.

"Throughout the 30 years, identity has been an important issue."

Other important issues for Sir Tony have been moral issues, which have dominated his time in the lower house.

He said: "Sometimes I have been on the wrong side of the vote, but ultimately on the right side of the argument.

"One of the things I'm most glad I did in the Commons was to vote against the Iraq war. I was one of a small number of Conservatives who voted against the war. I voted against it because I thought it was against international law.

"So, although I was in the minority in that case, I think the arguments eventually proved us to be correct.

That's democracy."

He said he had watched party membership dwindle, and said politics was a different ball game to that of 1983.

He said: "Thirty years ago all political parties had significantly larger memberships. When I was first elected, most weekends I would be going to branch events. That just doesn't happen now.

"On the other hand, the only way I could communicate with electors in 1983 was by letter or by articles in local newspapers. Now I have a website and I can post articles there. Or I use Twitter.

"I think that's fine for someone like myself, who has been around for a long time, but I think it must be much harder for newer members of Parliament who have to be much more self-supporting because they just haven't got the organisational base we had when I was elected."



Sir Tony Baldry, pictured at his Bloxham home with a photograph of Lady Thatcher complete with autograph and personal dedication OX59397

Sir Tony's career

July 10, 1950: Tony Baldry born in Hillingdon, to parents Peter, a research worker at Harefield Hospital and Oina Baldry.

1974: Personal assistant to chief secretary to the treasury Maurice MacMillan, later assistant to Margaret Thatcher.

1975: Joined Margaret Thatcher's private office.

1979: Contested the Thurrock constituency, losing out to Labour's Oonagh McDonald by 6,419 votes. Married first wife, Catherine, shortly before the election.

1981: Selected to contest the Banbury constituency after Neil Marten retires.

June 9, 1983: Won Banbury with a majority of 13,025 over his nearest rival, the Social Democratic Party candidate K Fitchett. Son Edward born.

1985: Appointed as parliamentary private secretary to minister for Europe Lynda Chalker. Daughter Honor born.

1987: Retained Banbury with increased majority of 17,330. Appointed as parliamentary private secretary to House of Commons leader John Wakeham.

1990: Appointed as a minister for energy by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

November 1990: Appointed to the department for environment as a minister.

1992: Retained Banbury with a majority of 16,720.

1994: Transferred to Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

1995: Divorced Catherine.

1996: Appointed to final ministerial post, at the Ministry of Agriculture.

1997: Retained Banbury with smaller majority, just 4,737, in the Labour landslide election.

2001: Retained Banbury with majority of 5,219 over his Labour rival Les Sibley. Married second and current wife, Pippa.

2005: Retained Banbury with majority of 10,797, once again over Labour's Les Sibley.

2010: Retained Banbury with majority of 18,227. Appointed second church estates commissioner.

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Sir Tony, left, enjoys his anniversary lunch with MP John Howell, Lord Hurd, Lord Heseltine, MP Ed Vaisey, Prime Minister David Cameron and MP Nicola Blackwood



Changes 'would hurt county's poorest and most vulnerable'

Fears over the looming

shake-up to legal aid

LAWYERS say that moves to reduce the amount of free legal help will hurt the county's poorest and most vulnerable.

Government plans to cut back on legal aid will mean only four solicitors' firms will be able to offer the service in the Thames Valley region – compared to more than 40 at present.

And defendants earning more than £37,500 will not be entitled to any free legal support in court.

Jan Matthews, managing director of Oxfordshire-based Reeds Solicitors, said legal firms would also only be paid the same if a client pleaded guilty or if they were defended in a trial.

He said: "The incentive will be to get guilty pleas as soon as you can, and

By Gill Oliver and Ben Wilkinson

then do as little work as possible. If you don't, you won't make any money."

He said the changes, which could be confirmed in August, would mean his firm would lose 35 per cent of its income and the criminal department would have to close.

The plans are part of a bid to slice £220m off the £1bn the Government spends on legal aid every year.

Firms would be able to bid to be one of four in the Thames Valley to provide legal aid services, but they can only ask for payments at least 17.5 per cent less than they do now.

Defendants would also be unable choose who represents them. If the

Government plans are approved, the changes would come into force next year.

But many lawyers said some clients were already failing to get the help they need, following reforms in April that removed large areas of law from the scope of civil legal aid.

Family law specialist Anne Davies said she had had to turn away people because they were no longer eligible for free help.

She added: "I have had clients come in who are vulnerable people, desperately in need of help. And there's nothing we can do about it."

And John McNulty, a consultant at Turpin Miller, said: "I deal with

vulnerable people, such as those who have been evicted, find themselves homeless and need to find alternative accommodation

"As a result of the changes to legal aid, if a tenant has been experiencing harassment for months and wants assistance, I can't get aid to proceed with a claim against the landlord. All I can do is give them some limited legal advice."

Justice Secretary Chris Grayling defended the plans.

He said: "We have one of the best legal professions in the world."

"But at a time of major financial challenges, the legal sector cannot be excluded from the Government's commitment to getting better value for taxpayers' money."



Legal consultant John McNulty

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OxSAR training in the River Thames to prepare for future potential flood rescues
OX59579

Volunteers are ready for action

By Pete Hughes

OXFORDSHIRE has a new team of volunteers trained to rescue people from floods.

The electricians, teachers and bankers of Oxfordshire Lowland Search and Rescue – known as OxSAR – already give their time to help police looking for missing people.

Now, after weeks of training, they can also be called in to help the fire service rescue people from floods and get them to safety.

And, with about 18,300 properties that are at risk of flooding in Oxfordshire, oven-cleaning business owner and volunteer Steve Archibald, 43, said: "We all need to support our neighbours. Knowing that someone's loved one needs help keeps you going when you're

Self-financed and self-equipped team prepared for rescues

soaking wet and freezing cold."

After OxSAR recently signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue, it means the volunteers can be put on call – possibly for days at a time.

The group has used a £9,980 Big Lottery Fund grant to buy their own dry suits, helmets, boots, personal flotation devices and an eight-man rescue raft.

Volunteers also spent weeks training on open water and had hours of lectures on how rivers work.

Some 12 members have

been trained in flood rescue and river bank searching and OxSAR hopes to double its number of volunteers by the end of the summer.

They will work in teams of four, with possibly several teams on call at once.

The volunteers are also available to Oxfordshire

County Council's emergency planning team to assist in sandbagging and leafletting.

Assistant chief fire officer Simon Furlong said: "We welcome the opportunity to work alongside this highly-trained and well-equipped organisation in times of need."

"It means the right resources will be available to complement us to assist in a swift resolution of these types of incidents."

OxSAR relies entirely on donations, which can be given by texting OXSR05 to 70070 for £5 or OXSR10 to donate £10.



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■ **Andrew Smith**
BUSINESS EDITOR
asmith@oxfordmail.co.uk

MUSICIAN Richard Ashton's career has hit a new high note after his business was nominated to compete against the cream of entrepreneurial talent across the country.

Mr Ashton, 30, runs World Beats Music, which teaches music in schools and to adults.

It was one of three winners of the Local Business Accelerators contest, run by Newsquest Oxfordshire and aimed at finding the top fledgling companies in the county.

Now he will go on to compete against winners nominated by newspapers from all over the UK as the national leg of the competition gets into full swing.

He said: "I am so excited about finding out what will happen in the next stage and to meet other businesses who have been involved."

Mr Ashton formed his company after becoming disillusioned with the County Music Service where he had worked previously.

Now he works with schools throughout the county running music classes and workshops and has found a ready demand for his services.

Since his success in the Local Business Accelerators earlier this year, things have been moving fast for World Beats Music.

It was recently awarded a Government start-up loan of £6,000 and the company has moved to new offices in Appleford, near Abingdon.

The new premises includes a hi-tech teaching studio that allows

SUCCESS: Place in national final has musician on a high

for an evening and weekend music school to operate, boosting the client base.

Mr Ashton is in the process of hiring two new teachers in time for the new academic year in September to cover the growing number of schools that are coming on board, including three in the past six weeks.

One is Woodeaton Manor school for youngsters with social and emotional difficulties and Mr Ashton has found the experience of teaching there particularly rewarding.

He said: "It is less about achieving technical ability and more about how learning an instrument can improve your quality of life."

Mr Ashton is also offering youngsters work experience, developing the company website to help accommodate the growth of the business and is working with his old employers at the County Music Service to help plan the future academic provision of music teaching.

After being voted a winner of the competition, Mr Ashton won three months' worth of free advertising in Newsquest publications

■ MENTOR:

Bob Urwin has been advising Richard on how to move his music business forward

including the *Banbury Cake*, along with a year's support from mentor Bob Urwin.

The advertising has proved successful at bringing in new clients and highlighting the new premises.

And Mr Ashton has had regular meetings with Mr Urwin, who runs the Martin & Co lettings agency in Oxford, which have also proved highly beneficial.

"Bob has given me some invaluable support, particularly when I was moving into the new offices," he said.

Such has been the rapid expansion of World Beats Music, Mr Ashton has had to spend more time running the business and less time teaching but he is enjoying the whole experience.

He said: "I don't think there will come a time when I am never teaching but I am really excited to see the business grow."

After judging, the national shortlist will be announced in September, followed by the grand final event in October at which the national winners will be announced.

The overall LBA winner will receive a prize package including mentoring from Deborah Meaden, of *Dragons' Den* fame, a free advertising campaign in their local newspaper and £10,000 cash.



■ **ON THE RIGHT BEAT:** Richard Ashton will pit his World Beats Music business against some of the country's finest entrepreneurs
Picture: OX57131 Antony Moore

Winning brewery gets a taste for international export

EXPORTING used to be seen as the preserve of large companies. It was sometimes seen as too complicated and too time consuming to be undertaken by small businesses.

Now that has all changed. Small and medium-sized companies are realising that to grow they have to become international.

They will be part of the Government's ambition to increase the number of UK companies exporting to 100,000 by 2020.

Firms used to be able to rely on domestic orders for growth and profits but for the past few years, with the UK just emerged from recession, companies have started to look elsewhere.

They do so not just to improve sales revenues. Researchers at

the University of Durham (Harris & Li) have found that companies that export become, on average, 34 per cent more productive and are 11 per cent more likely to survive a recession.

They will be less reliant on just home markets and Barclays research shows they grow an average of 30 per cent in two years.

With only small growth predicted for the UK over the next year or so, companies are looking elsewhere to maintain their business. So UK businesses have the motive to export. They also have the opportunity.

In Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East a number of countries are experiencing an historic moment as their economies grow an

unprecedented speed.

Export advice for companies of all sizes is now easier to come by than ever before. As part of the Government's National Export Challenge Banks, lawyers and accountants have joined in with helping to give firms the advice they need to do business abroad.

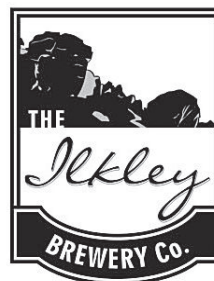
UK Trade & Investment, the Government's international business development department, has forged partnerships with the British Chambers of Commerce and a number of Trade Associations to give companies

the information and tools they need to start breaking into international markets.

Eligible companies can also get a grant of up to £3000 to help them get the advice and support they need. International trade advisers can help the company decide which markets are best for them.

Businesses of all shapes and sizes are discovering ways to export.

Last year's winner of the Local Business Accelerator awards, was Ilkley Brewery, which in May won a contract to send 14,000 bottles of ale to the southern US.



It was the company's first delivery abroad. Despite intense competition from US brewers, Ilkley Brewery found that they could offer something different and new and make it pay.

The Government has set aside an additional £70m a year for the next two years to enhance the support available for UK companies wanting to export. Export vouchers, additional advisors and increased support to go to trade fairs are all part of this. There has not been a better time to export. The only question left for UK firms is if not now, then when?

Go to <http://www.gov.uk/greatpassport> to find out more about exporting. And for other advice on expanding your business visit <http://greatbusiness.gov.uk>



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Exited by the prospect of serving Caribbean food here and also being the

only one in the community providing this take away service I applied with Cherwell council to get my food safety certificates.

I achieved that together with a 5 star rating for food hygiene from Cherwell council within 1 month.

Being the only one cooking the meals deserts and special drinks here mean I can only provide a take away service from home on a collection basis only for the time being.

A number of families are now collecting their desired Caribbean meals from me on a regular basis and they enjoy the banter and home cooked healthy food I provide for the community.

Meal treats include: Jerk chicken, curry goat, snappa, hake fish all with rice and peas, chicken soup with veg, sweet potato, dumplings.

Other treats include fried dumplings, plantain, green banana, peanut punch, calaloo, cabbage with peppers.

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Wilko rocking on at CORNBURY FESTIVAL

Festival lovers who were already tantalised by next month's Cornbury Music Festival have a late addition to tempt them even more.

For the event's 10th year, organisers this week announced the addition of Wilko Johnson.

The legendary guitarist of '70s rock band Dr Feelgood is a true survivor. He was a founding father of the British punk movement influencing bands on both sides of the Atlantic from the Sex Pistols and The Clash to The Ramones and Blondie. On leaving Dr Feelgood, Wilko formed the first incarnation of The Wilko Johnson Band and was also a mainstay of The Blockheads, co-writing a number of songs with Ian Dury. Fans of the cult American series *Game of Thrones* will recognise Wilko as the executioner Ilyn Payne.

He completed a short farewell tour earlier this year after doctors gave him six months to live after diagnosing him with terminal pancreatic cancer. But he won't let that get in the way of one last fling at Cornbury.

Wilko says: "It seems I am still being spared the final onslaught of my terminal cancer. As the memory

By Liz Nicholls

of the farewell tour recedes I am feeling again the desire to get up on stage and do my thing while health allows – so that's why I have decided to make some festival appearances during the summer.

"Our visit to Cornbury in 2011 was a happy one and I am delighted we can return once more."

"It's a huge thrill for me to have one of greatest guitarists of all time at our 10th anniversary festival," added promoter Hugh Phillimore.

Cornbury, which takes place from Friday, July 5, until Sunday, July 7, features a mighty scoop of performers including the first day's offerings of Squeeze, Beverley Knight, Imelda May, The Overtones, King Charles, Nell Brydon and Matthew Lee

Saturday's acts include Keane, Echo and the Bunnymen, The Proclaimers, James Arthur and JJ Grey & Mofro

The final day features Seth

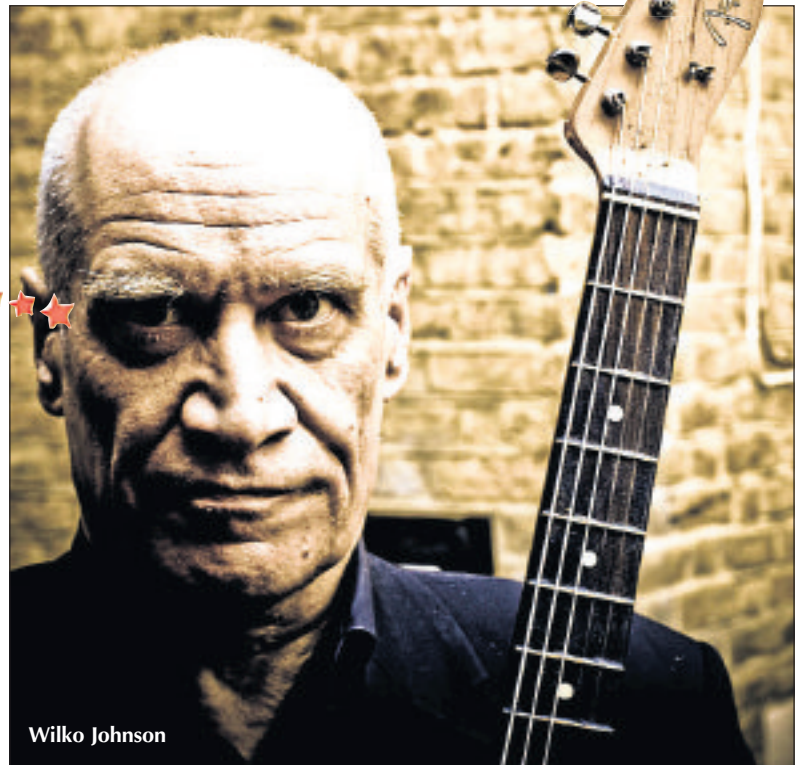
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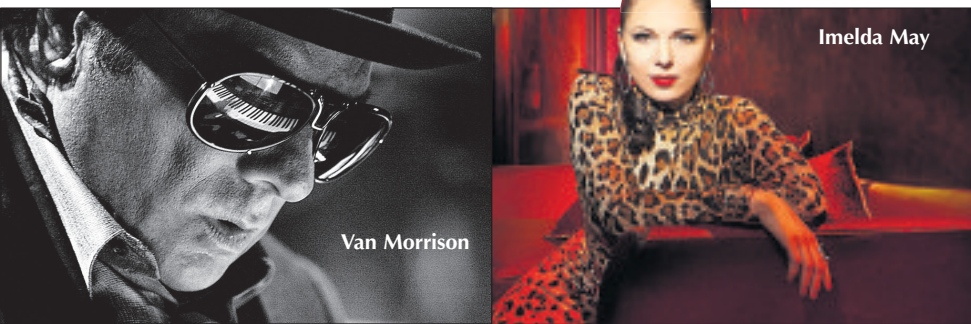
Lakeman, Tift Merritt, Staxs + guest, Amy Macdonald, Lucy Spraggan, The Riptide Movement, Hugh Cornwell, Silver Seas, Chipping Norton Allstars, Bo Bruce and, of course, Wilko at 2.30pm on the festival's Pleasant Valley Stage.

Van Morrison headlines on Sunday on the same stage at 6.30pm followed by festival-closers Bellowhead.

■ The Cornbury Music Festival takes place on Great Tew Estate, OX7 4AH. For tickets, visit bookingsdirect.com, call 0844 338 0000 or visit cornburyfestival.com



Wilko Johnson



Van Morrison

Imelda May

Gospel choir spreads the joy

This Sunday (June 16), Cropredy's Gospel Edge Choir is offering singers the chance to learn exciting gospel harmonies and put on a teatime concert in St Mary's Church.

The day begins at 11am with a vocal workshop and introduction to the concert songs, which include classics such as Bob Marley's *One Love*.

After rehearsals, the 3pm concert takes place in the beautiful setting of St Mary's.

A well-earned afternoon tea will be served to choir and audience at 4pm. The event is free but singers are asked to bring their own packed lunch and a contribution for the tea. Audience members can show appreciation with optional donations to the church organ fund.

The Gospel Edge Choir was founded in 2011 by local children's music teacher Caroline Watsham. It sings regularly at St Mary's Cropredy and has also performed at local events such as the

Cropredy Royal Wedding Party, and at the Fairport Festival service. In July they will perform a set as one of the featured acts at Banbury Folk Club's Open Stage night. The choir is open to anyone aged 10 and over who enjoys singing. New members are not expected to audition, and there is no membership fee.

The choir meets on Wednesdays at Cropredy Church from 6-7pm.

For details, call Caroline on 01295 750442.

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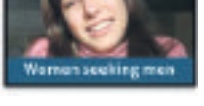
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ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 45, 5'2", red hair, green eyes, grown up children, loves the outdoors, travel, animals and family life, seeking a genuine guy, 40-50, for true romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced Witney girl, 46, 5'3", average build, likes restaurants, walking, travelling, looking to find a fun, caring, and honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116 or send a text to 80360

TRY AND SEE Fun, blue-eyed and active, 46, fun and easygoing, enjoys music, reading and keeping fit, searching for a kind, caring and genuine guy, to share loving times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144409 or send a text to 80360

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TOP OF THE CLASS Enthusiastic, cultured and vibrant Melksham woman, 49, 5'5", looking for an enthusiastic, vibrant gent, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138880 or send a text to 80360

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MAKE CONTACT Friendly, homely and reliable Oxford lady, 51, 5'1", reliable to meet an emotional, reliable guy, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143710 or send a text to 80360

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RECIFE FOR LOVE Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 57, attractive, fun, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132

FIRENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive Witshire female, 57, widowed, brunette, 5'2", likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124892 or send a text to 80360

HOME LOVER Loyal Bicester lady, 60, 5'4", searching for an honest, hard-working and affectionate man, for great times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144576 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289

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Texts: Charged at standard rate.

LET'S ENJOY LIFE Vibrant, sincere Witney female, 63, loves meeting people, good conversations, going out & about, walks, theatre, looking for a similar chap, for companionship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142189

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man, I'm 64yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outdoors, walking and going to Marlborough/Wiltshire. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103610

LET'S MAKE HISTORY Loving Witshire female, 64, widow, non smoker, enjoys dining, reading and keeping fit, searching for a similar gent, for cosy times and companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142942 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 65, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415 or send a text to 80360

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 65-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360

STILL OPTIMISTIC Open, warm-hearted Bicester female, 66, 5'5", likes reading, music and gardening, would like to meet a genuine, non-smoking male, with good sense of humour, to share happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143846 or send a text to 80360

HAPPIER DAYS Kind-hearted, homely and sensitive Didcot woman, 71, would like a date with a lovely, kind-hearted guy, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136207 or send a text to 80360

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 78, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143588 or send a text to 80360

BLOSSOM WITH TLC Attractive Abingdon widow, 80, would like to meet a non-smoking, active gent, to enjoy days out and cosy times in. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139676

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 35, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

Men seeking women

Women seeking men

FRIENDLY COMPANION Friendly Kidlington male, 34, 5'8", blue eyes, smoker, loves pubs meals and cosy times in, seeking a female, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141321 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 41, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 41, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Confident, friendly Wantage male, 44, 6'4", green eyes, likes cooking, sports, cinema, looking to meet a black lady, 26-42, to enjoy good company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141512 or send a text to 80360

ENERGIZER TIME Honest, friendly and charming Oxford male, 45, 6'3", stocky build, great sense of humour, enjoys sport, travel, cosy times and social drinks, seeking a fun-loving female, for happier times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

OFFER ME YOUR LOVE Happy go lucky Windsor male, 47, enjoys cooking, walks, tennis, swimming and theatre, looking for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126273

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HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427 or send a text to 80360

LOTS TO GIVE Easygoing, reliable, loyal Bicester male, 47, 5'7", divorcee, varied interests and enjoys the outdoor life, looking for someone, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143400 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 51, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Separated, laid-back Bicester guy, 51, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, decent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

GOOD NATURED Upbeat Bicester male, 52, 5'10", brown hair, medium build, looking for an attractive, black lady, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140492 or send a text to 80360

PURE KINDNESS Blue-eyed Bicester male, 52, 5'10", own home, self-employed, searching for a loving African woman, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144560 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 54, good sense of humour, into most things, travelling, good foods, looking for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Borkford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

PERFECT TOGETHER Hard-working Oxfordshire male, 60, 6ft, widower, greying hair, smart, likes most things in life, now searching for an equally honest and genuine woman, to share love, life and true happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142767 or send a text to 80360

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 6'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit Banbury man, 61, 5'11", fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123384

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS Well-preserved Oxfordshire male, 67, 5'10", adequate intelligence, passably handsome, active, inquisitive, with a liberal outlook, seeking a bright, youthful lady, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108871

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 67, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6'6", slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812 or send a text to 80360

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy times, searching for a decent lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

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SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 62, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 64, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire male, 67, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

SOUL TO SOUL Divorced Oxford guy, 78, looks young, N/S, fit & active, easygoing nature, likes crosswords, meals out, cosy nights in, WLTM a charming, bubbly female, to share some quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

MADE TO MATCH? Genuine, loving, honest guy, 52, good sense of humour, looking for the same in my soul mate. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128318

KING OF MY HEART Lively, confident Oxford male, 54, would like to meet a mature, active male, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135675

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 64, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 66, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800

FROM THIS MOMENT Friendly, easygoing, fit Witney chap, 68, would like to meet an affectionate male, for company, companionship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134904 or send a text to 80360

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 69, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

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IT'S YOUR MOVE Sunny, pensive and trustworthy Swindon girl, 58, 5'4", average build, loves socialising and the outdoors, now looking to find an adaptable, genuine woman, to build a loving relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142183 or send a text to 80360

GET IN THE FRAME Warm, honest, independent Oxfordshire woman, 60, with many active interests in life, now searching for a nice, honest woman, to share the fun things in life, and a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142484

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Smiths team up for a futuristic blockbuster

AFTER EARTH (12A, 100 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller. Will Smith, Jaden Smith, Zoe Isabella Kravitz, Sophie Okonedo. Director: M Night Shyamalan.

After Earth is a family affair, reuniting Will and Jaden Smith for the first time since the saccharine 2006 drama *The Pursuit Of Happyness*.

M Night Shyamalan's sci-fi blockbuster is a perfect vehicle for Smith Snr to pass on the mantle, combining elements of *I Am Legend* and *Independence Day* with a deeply human story of a soldier struggling to connect with his grief-stricken child.

There are some lovely, tender moments in Shyamalan's script, co-written by Gary Whitta, that draw heavily on the natural chemistry between the leads.

Unfortunately, the demands of a summer blockbuster and the film's epic scope, achieved through a blitzkrieg of digital effects, tend to overwhelm that fragile and sometimes heartbreaking humanity.

In the distant future, Earth is a devastated wasteland, uninhabited by humans who have relocated to Nova Prime.

This new planet is also home to an alien race called The Skrel, which views the interlopers as vermin.

So The Skrel unleash The Ursa: hideously deformed creatures which track humans by the scent of fear pheromones.

One man, General Cypher Raige

(Will Smith) from The Ranger Corps, learns to overcome his fear through a phenomenon called "ghosting", which allows him to walk among The Ursa undetected, slaughtering the killing machines without mercy.

Cypher's son Kitai (Jaden Smith) trains to become a member of The Ranger Corps in order to assuage his guilt about the death of his older sister (Zoe Isabella Kravitz).

While Cypher is emotionally cold and logical, Kitai is passionate and reckless, and his application to The Corps is rejected.

So Cypher's wife, Faia (Sophie Okonedo), implores her husband to bond with Kitai during a final mission before retirement.

A freak asteroid storm badly damages their spaceship, which crash-lands on Earth.

Cypher and his boy are the only survivors.

With his father critically ill, Kitai must keep a cool head to retrieve a rescue beacon and alert HQ to their dire predicament.

Set 1,000 years after cataclysmic events that almost snuffed out mankind, *After Earth* is a rites-of-passage story viewed largely through the eyes of a boy desperate to impress his idol.

That central relationship is the glue that holds Shyamalan's film together, when other elements, including overblown action sequences, threaten to tear the picture apart.

While the characters only have to suppress fear to survive, the two Smiths choose to eradicate almost



Will Smith, as Cypher Raige, and Sophie Okonedo, as Faia Raige, in a scene from the film *After Earth*

Picture: PA Photo/Sony UK

all tangible emotion from their respective performances.

We should be thankful that Shyamalan's unfortunate experience with 3D on *The Last Airbender* steered the director away from employing the same format here.

A menagerie of computer-generated apes, big cats and birds of prey, which hunt Kitai on futuristic Earth, are shockingly unrealistic in 2D, let alone in eye-popping close-up.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY- Loyd Lindsay Rooms, High Street, Ardington: Graffiti Classics. 16 strings, eight dancing feet and four voices with one aim - to make classical music funny and exhilarating for everyone. It's a classical concert, a gypsy-folk romp, an opera, a stand-up comedy set and a brilliant dance show all rolled into one. 7.45pm. £10, under-16 £5. 01295 832240.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Backbeat Beatles. Beatles tribute band, direct from Liverpool. £12 adv. £10 on door. 8pm. 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Who's Who - The Who tribute band. £16, concession £14. 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

SATURDAY - The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Animals and friends on tour. £15. 8.30pm. 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: London Dance Orchestra. Eleven musicians make up a traditional line-up of an early

1930s big band sound. £15, conc £13. 7.45pm. 01608 642350

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Jun 13, Your Place Or Mind.

Presented by Ian Harvey Stone, mind reader and hypnotist. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm.

Jun 18-19, Doublespeak. Students from Oxford and Cherwell Valley College revisit Orwell's 1984 and reinvent it for 2013. £6, concession £4. 7.30pm.

Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Jun 13, Cotswold Comedy Club. Headlining tonight's mixed bill of comedians from across the UK is Nick Page. He does voiceover work, and radio, and has written articles and a book. He tells stories about how he messed up his life, stories with punchlines. Like Jokes really. But true. £10. 7.45pm.

Jun 15, London Dance Orchestra. The band comprises 7 musicians who make up the traditional line

up of an early 1930's big band sound. The LDO give sensational performances that always leave the audience begging for more. 7.45pm.

Jun 16, The Audience, (screening of theatre production). 7pm. For sixty years Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren, reprising her Academy Award winning role) has met each of her twelve Prime Ministers in a weekly audience at Buckingham Palace. From young mother to grandmother, these private audiences chart the arc of the second Elizabethan Age. Box office: 01608 642350.

Events

SATURDAY: Sor Brook Mill, off Austin Road, Bodicote:

DuckFest. Come and have a fun time racing ducks at the Annual Bodicote Duck Races at Sor Brook Mill, Bodicote. A chance to win £100 in cash! Bar, BBQ, Bouncy Slide, Tuck Shop and Live Music from Band M, Punch Drunk Monkey Club, Argos & Monster and Barney Beauregard. 3-7.30pm. 07967 094898.

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Defeated by leaders

Banbury's Jonny Cater, who made 58 in partnerships with Richard West and Luke Ryan



BANBURY fell to a five-wicket defeat at Henley in Division 1 on Saturday.

The visitors made a steady start before losing Ian Tew and Craig Haupt in quick succession to leave them 29-2.

Nathan Hawkes steadied the ship when he joined Lloyd Sabin at the crease and Banbury progressed towards a competitive total.

Sabin went on to reach his half-century before being bowled by Gurveer Singh –

his 56 coming off 88 balls and including six fours and a six.

Jonny Cater and Richard West then put on 55 for the fifth wicket, before Cater and Luke Ryan shared a 48-run sixth-wicket partnership as Banbury stepped on the gas.

Cater fell for 58 off 69 balls, but it was the late flurries from Ryan, 36 off 18 deliveries, and Ashley Blanchard, 29 not out from 17, that enabled Banbury to reach 242-8 off their 50 overs.

Henley made a superb start to their reply, Michael Roberts and David Barnes putting on 138 for the opening wicket.

Two wickets apiece from West and Jimmy Phillips gave Banbury some hope, but the hosts reached their target with two balls to spare, Barnes hitting 118 and Roberts 70.

HOW THEY STAND

	Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	A	Bon	Pts
Henley	5	5	0	0	0	0	125
Harpenden	5	4	0	1	0	6	106
Tring Park	5	4	0	1	0	3	103
Banbury	5	2	0	3	0	17	67
Slough	5	2	0	3	0	17	67
High Wycombe	5	2	0	3	0	14	64
North Wymms	5	2	0	3	0	14	64
Welwyn Garden City	5	2	0	3	0	7	57
Potters Bar	5	1	0	4	0	13	43
Burnham	5	1	0	4	0	15	40

BANBURY

L Sabin b Singh	56
I Tew c Allaway b Nugent	7
C Haupt run out	1
N Hawkes c Mordt b Singh	19
J Cater c Ferguson b Nugent	58
R West b Mordt	36
L Ryan b Afridi	29
A Blanchard not out	29
B Barends c Qureshi b Nugent	0
O Wright not out	0
Extras	5
Total (8 wks, 50 ovs)	242
Fall: 1-28, 2-29, 3-74, 4-97, 5-152, 6-200, 7-242, 8-242.	

Bowling: Afridi 10-1-57-1, Nugent 10-1-31-3, Mordt 10-1-74-1, Riazuddin 10-0-38-0, Singh 10-1-42-2.

HENLEY

M Roberts c Sabin b Ryan	70
D Barnes c Ryan b Phillips	118
F Qureshi lbw West	14
D Allaway c Haupt b West	4
H Riazuddin c Haupt b Phillips	5
B Mordt not out	17
T Ferguson not out	11
Extras	14
Total (5 wks, 49.4 ovs)	243
Fall: 1-138, 2-153, 3-176, 4-210, 5-242.	

Bowling: Wright 5-0-31-0, Barends 7-1-51-0, Ryan 10-0-30-1, West 10-2-32-2, Blanchard 8-1-49-0, Phillips 9-4-0-49-2.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

An upbeat mood may open doors for you. Your luck may be in, as unexpected events bring possibilities that seem like a stroke of genius. Home is where the heart is, encouraging you to relax and entertain. A career matter may come to a head - try not to overreact. Call for more advice...

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

An intuitive idea or even a dream that contains guidance, may result in a financial opportunity that's too good to miss. An idea may become a money-spinning reality, and taking a small risk may be good for your bank account. You may be in a very effusive mood. Call me for more...

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Your conversational mood has potential to attract the right people to you. You're especially good at leasing information out of contacts, friends or associates, and using it to take a bolder option. Good fortune seems to follow you around, especially early on. Call for your financial forecast...

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

A coincidence may register on your radar, as an opportunity to take action on a career goal or long-held dream. Be open to a success may follow. Don't ignore your feelings about key issues, instead, follow them and circumvent problems more easily. Call for more advice...

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Romantic potential may show up in one relationship, mainly as a result of being in the right place at the right time. Once the Sun moves into Cancer, you enter a yearly cycle that's meant for slowing down and making more time for yourself. Call for your love scope in full in full...

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

A spontaneous idea or unexpected opportunity may result in a desire to take a risk that could enhance your career prospects. Be open to leads or inside information, and be ready to act on them for a successful outcome. Socially, you're in a very positive frame of mind. Call me for more...

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

The sky's the limit, as travel, exploration and adventure encourage you to move out of your comfort zone and take a risk. Higher-education or an interesting course may appeal. You may get news or information that highlights a special opportunity. Call for more advice...

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

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Nov 22-Dec 21

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Dec 22-Jan 19

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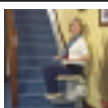


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Details of the post, including an application form can be found on our website: www.kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk

Applicants should send a completed application form, covering letter and CV to:

Mr N Seward

**Headmaster, Kingham Hill School, Chipping Norton,
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The closing date for applications is: Monday 1st July

First interviews will be held w/c Monday 8th July

Second interviews will be held w/c Monday 15th July

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CakeMotoring

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Meaty machine raises its game

By David Duffy

Some vehicles deliver precisely what they say on the tin. Nissan's X-Trail looks like a meaty machine capable of mastering tough terrain and easily towing loads topping two tonnes. That's because it is.

It is that down-to-earth, go-anywhere solidity that has won it so many fans since it was launched almost six years ago, but now Nissan has raised its game with a new n-tec+ specification offering styling tweaks and plenty of gadgets.

At its heart, the X-Trail remains Nissan's no-nonsense 4x4 with chunky looks, a functional interior and tremendous pulling power. Under the bonnet of the test car sat a 173 horsepower, 2.0-litre dCi turbodiesel engine, mated to six-speed manual gearbox, which delivers 2,200kg towing capacity.

Couple that with electronic systems to help when starting uphill and also assisting in tricky descents and you have a vehicle that is surefooted whatever the weather.

But don't get the idea that the X-Trail is a stripped-out, back-to-basics model. It is anything but. Both around town and at motorway speeds, the ride is smooth, comfortable and remarkably quiet.

Comfort for those in the rear has

been improved thanks to redesigned front seats, creating extra knee-room, without affecting the comfort of the front seat occupants.

Instrumentation is clear and in between the main dials is a new drive computer with a white-on-black display that gives a range of useful information for the driver, including: fuel economy, outside temperature (including ice warning), cruising range, average speed and a reminder to take a break.

The boot is a double-deck affair with a sliding drawer under the floor where valuable items can be stored.

All versions have a full-size spare wheel as Nissan says neither a space-saver spare, nor a can of puncture repair foam, is considered suitable for a true off-roader.

The n-tec+ grade sits between

Auto facts

Model: Nissan X-Trail 2.0 dCi n-tec+
Price: £27,790
Ins group: 35 (1-50)
Fuel consumption: (Combined): 44.1mpg
Top speed: 124mph
Length: 463.5cm/182.5in
Width: 179cm/70.5in
Luggage capacity: 21.3 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 14.3 gallons/65 litres
CO₂ emissions: 168g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 mls



SUREFOOTED: Nissan's X-Trail has electronic systems to help when starting uphill and assist in tricky descents

the Acenta and flagship Tekna models with 18-inch alloy wheels, a chrome finish to the front fog lamps and side bars with side steps.

On the inside, the X-Trail n-tec+ empties the toy box with a Nissan Connect system that includes touchscreen satnav with Bluetooth connectivity for hands-free telephone calls and music streaming and cameras that give a 360-degree view around the car.

There are yet more goodies but it is the X-Trail's strong performance both on and off-road that has made it such a success.

gearbox which is now happier to block-shift smoothly, while each ratio locates easily with just the right amount of initial resistance.

The engine pulls harder above 3,000rpm until acceleration starts to fall away by 5,000rpm, making it a low-revving unit by petrol standards. Ultimately, that should help reduce engine wear many years down the line. Vauxhall has confirmed that the SIDI 1.6 will be built with various power outputs and should find applications across every range from the Corsa to the Insignia and Zafira.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ **THE Heritage Motor Centre**, at Gaydon, has good news for spectators attending the nostalgic 65th Banbury Run which takes place on Sunday. New spectator prices have been released so that those who book in advance will pay £5 per ticket, or on the day £8 and £25 for a family (two adults and three children). The ticket price not only includes entry to watch the largest gathering of pre-1931 motorcycles and three-wheelers in the world, but also includes entry to the Heritage Motor Centre Museum which has almost 300 cars in its collection.

■ **TOYOTA** and **Lexus** have bookended a list of the top 10 most valuable automotive brands. In the eighth BrandZ report since its 2006 pilot, Toyota has been named the most expensive for the sixth time with a value of 24.5bn US dollars (£16.2m). Lexus maintains the 10th place it posted last year with a value of 3.5 bn US dollars (£2.3 bn).

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2007	57	VW POLO 1.2E, 3 Door, Red, One private owner from new, Approximately only 23000 recorded miles from new, Full service history, Superb condition throughout, PAS, Central locking, Radio/CD, Low insurance, Excellent economy, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear.....	£5,395
2003	03	TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 T3 VVTi, 5 Door, Dark Green, 2 owners, Alloys, PAS, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Aircon, Radio/CD, Good service record, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear.....	£2,995
2006	06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DCI SPORTIVE (DIESEL) VAN, Silver, Exceptional condition, PAS, Radio CD, Ply lined, No vat.....	£2,925 (NO VAT) BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
2006	06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DCI SPORTIVE (DIESEL) VAN, Silver, Good condition, PAS, Aircon, Alloys, Radio/CD, Ply lined, Electric windows, Recent new cambelt kit, Sold with a new MOT, HPI Clear.....	£2,850
2001	51	VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Aircon, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MoT a full service and a new cam belt, HPI clear.....	£2,495
2001	51	VW POLO 1.4 MATCH, Dark Blue, 5 Door, Local car, PAS, Aircon, Central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very good service record, Nice condition, Sold with a new cambelt a new MOT and a full service, HPI clear.....	£2,495
2003	53	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX, Silver, 5 door, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio CD, Lovely through out, Sold with a new MOT and a full service and a new cam belt kit, HPI clear.....	£2,495
2002	52	SKODA FABIA 1.4 SILVERLINE, 5 Door Hatchback, Alloys, Electric windows, Radio/CD, PAS, Local car, Very tidy condition, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear.....	£1,995
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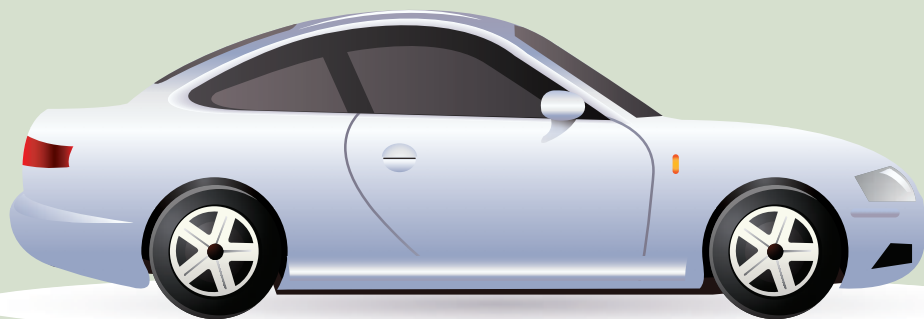


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